

## FOR SMALL FOLKS.

American Children Are Well Dressed Now.

SENSIBLE MODES PREVAIL.

Their Clothes Are Picturesque, Yet Sensible.

Rompers Used by Both Small Boys and Little Girls in Their Play Hours—Party Frocks Notable for Their Fineness and Dainty Simplicity and Lack of Ornamentation—A Liking for White Attire for Little Ones Indoors Even in Winter—Sense in Outdoor Garments—Russian Suits for Boys—Pretty French Fashions.

American children are better dressed to-day than they have previously been within the memory of this generation—better dressed because more sensibly and appropriately dressed.

It is possible, of course, to spend large sums upon a child's outfit. In fact, to keep a child garbed in accordance with fashion's mandates necessarily means lavish expenditure; but the outlay is, at least, in harmony with the laws of good taste and the well-dressed child of the period is not the over-dressed child. The money expended goes into good materials, daintiness



of work, lateness of supply, not into showy trimmings and perishable extravagances.

Children's clothes are really childlike, are picturesque yet serviceable and even the party frocks of the wee woman have a fineness and dainty simplicity far removed from ostentation. In praise of the wealthy and so-called smart contingent of society, be it said that it has led in the reform.

With serene confidence in its own ability to make fashion laws, and with consequent independence, it has put its small heiresses and embryo millionaires into rompers and overalls and serviceable party frocks and suits at which the parents of small income would look askance. It has chosen school clothes of fine quality and trim simplicity, has made hand work and fine materials the keynotes of the dressy little frocks instead of showiness, and has substituted immaculateness for elegance.

The lesser social luminaries have fallen into line, the manufacturers have followed the current, and now even the ready-made garments for children offered in the cheaper shops have their merits.

The rise of the romper has been a significant feature in the reform. It is a recognition that even the social select admit the equality of childhood and normal boisterousness of healthy childhood.

The day of prim propriety is past. Children are encouraged in all healthy outdoor play that makes for physical development. Grubbiness is accepted as a necessary good rather than a necessary evil.

Woman's rights, too, make their initial stand in the romper; for the girl child doesn't have to stand by, clad in crisp and perishable line linen, and wistfully watch her lucky brother in his liberty, or else join him at the cost of spoiling her frock and being punished for it. No, indeed. She, too, is tucked into blue jean overalls or something else as practical, and is turned loose to enjoy life without the handicap of petticoated vanity which will shadow her later days.

The rompers sketched here illustrate only one of many models, but are practical and easily made. Stout linen is preferred for such garments by some mothers, but the blue jeans of tradition, warranted to stand wear and tear, washing and weather, are a favorite material and are generally becoming.

Some of the rompers are high-necked



and worn without underbouse or frock, but others are made with ample folds and intended to be pulled over a better frock or suit, to protect it. Still others are worn with at least a white waist, showing only where the romper is cut down in a square or round line at the neck. This bit of white around the face is becoming and adds to the picturesqueness of the costume.

and sleeves of the underbouse, are delightful upon either the small boy or the girl, but sleeves are easily soiled, and where laundry work is a consideration rompers with full sleeves buttoning at the wrist and entirely protecting any undersleeves are preferable.

Whatever the model chosen, rompers both little boy and little girl should have.

For winter outdoor play many fine frocks dressed by wealthy and modish mothers now wear a warm knitted outfit that corresponds to the summer or house rompers of wash stuff, and is absurdly funny and cunning as well as eminently practical. During the cold and snow preceding Christmas, a group of very small boys and girls, representing in their chubby childishness an imposing number of future millions, were sledding on an unimpressive hill, under charge of five nurses, and we stopped to laugh at the amusing group.

Two round, rosy little girls were all in bright red from top to toe. Toboggan

of color in tailor stitching. Velvet Russian suits, too, are worn.

The same materials and treatment are admissible for girls of corresponding age; but, as we have said, the sheer lingerie frocks are the correct things for the little girls on dress occasions, and the fashionable small maids are attired in such frocks every evening before going downstairs to join the family and guests, though they may wear dark and serviceable frocks throughout the day.

The boy a trifle too old for the Russian suit goes into the blouse and knickers, and these may be of velvet, but, for dress, are preferably of white wool stuff. Everyday suits are of dark serge, cloth, &c.

The dark sailor suit for both girls and boys of this age and older is still considered correct, but the blouse suit with scarf and dicker and without sailor insignia is perhaps smarter for the boy.

The French party frock of the small girl is naturally the most elaborate thing

in her wardrobe, though its elaborateness must not be of the sort that declares itself loudly.

The long waist and abbreviated skirt of French origin is still the accepted mode for such a frock, although the tendency during the last two seasons has been toward modifying the extravagance of this model and bringing the waist line nearer the point allotted by nature. That is, the waist is a trifle shorter, the skirt a trifle longer, and the modification is undeniably an improvement.

Very fine muslin, lawn, batiste, mull, nainsook, Swiss and kindred stuffs are the materials chosen for these frocks, and the fineness of the material is the keynote of the dress. Much trimming is not needed, is not even desirable, but what is used must be of excellent quality and should be applied by hand if the thing is possible.

A quantity of rather coarse lace applied by machine in intricate fashion will rob any small girl's frock of modishness, even though it may have a certain superficial showiness, and this defect is the one chiefly in evidence in the ready-made children's frocks sold for reasonable prices. A hand-made garment is sure to be high in price, and the only woman who dresses her tiny daughter really well, at small expense, is the woman who can make the little frocks herself and put her money into quality of materials, not into paying for hand work.

The ready-made boy's suits and the play frocks and school frocks for girls are often exceedingly satisfactory. In fact, the boys' clothes are usually smarter when bought ready-made, at a good price, than when made at home, but even in the girls' ordinary clothes, a personal choice of materials, a suggestion of individuality given by some slight touch of hand work, is more

at least is not a costly matter.

Fine broderie anglaise and other fine embroideries are much used for children's party frocks, usually in combination with Valenciennes lace for the embroidery, however good, is a harsh and unbecoming finish.

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Russian suits of white cloth, white flannel or white cashmere are liked for little boys and are sometimes braided in white or have a touch of gold in braid and buttons or a bit

likely to belong to the home-made frock than to the one bought ready-made—always provided that the child's mother has a talent for the planning and making of children's clothes.

Valenciennes lace and insertion are the favorite trimmings for the little girl's party frock, and, while real Valenciennes is a joy and is indulged in by the mothers who can afford it, there are now many fine imitations almost as effective and

these are two little French frocks upon which the popular open work embroidery appears. The more elaborate has a yoke of embroidery, beneath which two frills of three-inch Valenciennes run around the shoulders. The short puffed sleeves of plain batiste have two lace frills for finish. The body of the tiny skirt is of embroidery and two lace frills trim the bottom.

The other frock, more attractive because more childlike, is of fine batiste, with beautiful broderie anglaise flouncing forming the short full skirt and a narrow band of broderie anglaise outlining the square cut neck. Outside of this embroidery band are two narrow frills of lace, and both embroidery and lace trim the short sleeves.

A frock of finest India lawn with skirt ruffle and bertha ruffle entirely covered by frills of narrow Valenciennes is simple, dainty and easily constructed; and there are innumerable models with shallow yokes of valenciennes insertion or of insertion and fine tucking and little shoulder ruffles and skirt ruffles edged with lace.

If the lace yoke is put together by hand and the lace edge is put on the ruffles by hand and headed by tiny hand run tucks these frocks are pretty enough to bear comparison with many much more pretentious; and it is better to have enough of such fine, simple frocks than to have fewer and more elaborate ones. Immaculateness is the absolute essential in fashionable child attire.

The small boy may wear only the plainest of white linen Russian suits, the small girl may wear only the simplest of white muslins, but the goods must be of excellent quality, and the garments must be changed often enough to meet crisp, immaculate for a small wearer. It was of dark blue velvet, and its frills, turning back all their length, were faced with heavy white silk striped in dark blue silk band.

Around the neck and down the fronts

like a long waistcoat ran a band of ermine, and there were little rouleaux of ermine on the cuffs, which were of white silk braided in blue. A flat cope collar, ending just in front of the shoulders, was also of the braided white. A hat of shirred blue velvet trimmed with little white roses and a diminutive muff of ermine accompanied the coat.

French, in origin, too, was a little velvet costume of a type usually reserved for older girls, yet very charming in its liliplutian form. A short full coat and a short full skirt of velvet gave a double layer effect when the costume was on, but the skirt was really a part of a little brettele frock worn over a fine muslin guimpe and sleeves. A vandyked cope collar of lace was on the coat, and a narrow embroidered band trimming finished the borders of coat and frock.

There are, by the way, many of these narrow embroidered bands, most attractive in color and design, which are easily applied and add a hint of gay color to a frock otherwise sober, yet are childish in effect if used in the very narrow widths.

The narrow braids, too, especially those with gold threads running through them, trim plain dark frocks well, and folds and

and grimy. Rompers drawn on over dainty frocks or suits for play time will do much toward accomplishing this end, even if many changes are out of the question.

Plain serge, chevrons, cloth, cashmere, &c., play an important part in the equipment of children for play and for school, and the plaids, which are so unusually lovely in the light weight wools of this season, are particularly suitable for the child's dark frock, combining utility with a hint of the gaiety that belongs by right

to childhood. The soft silks—China, India, surah, &c.—are made up into frocks for little girls, but are usually reserved for the making of coats, and it is doubtful whether silk is as pretty and appropriate for the child's coat as cloth or other wool, though fail, bengaline, peau de soie and other rich silks are much used for this purpose.

Cloth coats in white, blue, rich red or brown are most often seen this winter, although other colors are admissible, and the more severe models are liked for both girls and boys, the Russian coat being a great favorite.

Hussar coats in cloth with frogs down the front and flat little turndown collars and cuffs of astrachan are smart for the little boy, and hussar caps, fur trimmed, are sometimes worn with them, but the average boy looks better in cloth or leather than in fur-trimmed hussar.

Capes, single, double or triple, are much used upon the coats for both boys and girls of the age in question, and have the advantage of adding much to the warmth of the garment.

Velvet is more worn by both children and grownups than in many years, and is particularly favored for coats, short or long. The boy's coat is seldom made of it when the boy has passed baby coat years, but the Russian suit may be of velvet for dress occasions. The girl has of course more

latitude of choice, and some of the prettiest dress coats for little girls shown this season are in velvet.

One of the models illustrated here was a very dainty little garment, costly and hand-made without being too fancy and ornate for a small wearer. It was of dark blue velvet, and its frills, turning back all their length, were faced with heavy white silk striped in dark blue silk band.

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pipings of gay plaid silk are much used upon little frocks of plain color. Stitching in contrasting color, feather stitchings, embroidered dots, French knots, &c., in colored silk, tiny bouillottes of silk, bands of stitched cloth or silk—all these are good trimmings for the child's silk or wool frock, and very small gilt or silk covered buttons will brighten a dark frock considerably.

The French are fond of applying bands of plain white cloth to children's frocks of plaid, dotted or plain material, and often the idea is developed most effectively, although it must be borne in mind that white cloth soils readily, and that cleaning is not so simple and cheap a matter here as it is in Paris.

A little plaided frock of warm tartan plaid sketched here has the band of white stitched cloth around the neck below the shallow guimpe, and the band ends in two short tabs in front, with small buttons set upon each tab. The cuffs, too,

have the stitched white bands, tabs and buttons.

For older girls and boys there are other and diverse models, but their story must wait until another day, and limitations of space prevent full justice being done even to what these older boys and girls dis-respectfully call the small fry.

Forty-two pearls in an oyster.

From the Buffalo Courier.

James McLean found forty-two pearls in one oyster Wednesday evening. He started to eat the mollusk raw when he found his mouth full of small hard pellets.

Taking them out he found them to be pearls from the size of a pinhead to that of a grain of rice. He counted forty-two of them, and does not know how many he swallowed in his surprise. They are white, pink and black.

With Meat, Fish, and Now With Dentistry—When'll the Car Companies Begin?

"Now wouldn't that make you smile really?" the conductor said to a passenger standing by him on the rear platform, waving his hand at a sign in front of a dental establishment which announced that trading stamps were given there.

"Down my way," he continued, "the butcher gives trading stamps, and so does the grocer, and the fish market man gives extra stamps on Friday. But the dentist is a new one on me. What do you suppose he does? Give single stamps with each single tooth pulled and double stamps with double teeth and more when you take gas? And do you suppose you get enough to start a book with? With gold crowns, and a boxful of stamps with a full set of teeth?"

"And say you imagine it makes the pain at a loss, to know that you're going to get trading stamps when the dentist gets through with you? It seems right funny, hey?"

"But I suppose it's all right. Everybody gives trading stamps nowadays, and it wouldn't surprise me to see the street car companies doing it some day, and that'll make me tolerably lousy, giving out transfers and trading stamps, too."

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